

# NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



## John C. Stennis Space Center

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### STENNISPHERE FACT SHEET

StenniSphere, John C. Stennis Space Center's visitor center in south Mississippi, presents 14,000 square feet of informative displays and exhibits from NASA, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and other agencies located at Stennis Space Center. Live presentations take place throughout the museum and auditorium.

StenniSphere was named Mississippi's Travel Attraction of the Year 2000 by the Mississippi Tourism Association. Nearly 250,000 visitors from around the world visit the space center each year.

Tours to StenniSphere originate every 15 minutes from the Launch Pad tour stop at the Mississippi I-10 Welcome Center in Hancock County, just 45 miles east of New Orleans. On display nearby is a 30-foot tall replica of a Lunar Lander used as a trainer by Apollo astronauts.

Visitors can take photos of their own feet beside the boot prints made in concrete at the base of the Lunar Lander exhibit by Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise. Upon boarding tour vehicles, visitors take a 25-minute narrated tour through Stennis Space Center's unique acoustical buffer zone to America's largest rocket propulsion testing complex, where Apollo Saturn V engines were tested in the 1960s and today — the Space Shuttle's powerful main engines are proven flight worthy. NASA's next generation rocket engines are also tested at Stennis.

The lobby of StenniSphere features an exhibit highlighting astronauts from Mississippi and Louisiana, pioneer rocket scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun, as well as the late Sen. John C. Stennis, for whom the center is named.

Some of the exciting exhibits include:

- Moon Rock — estimated to be more than three billion years old; Collected by the crew of Apollo 15 in August 1971
- Apollo 13 Space Suit — worn by Mississippi astronaut Fred Haise, a crewmember of the Apollo 13 mission in April 1970
- Test Control Center — a mock up of a Stennis Space Center Control Center where you can "test" a Space Shuttle Main Engine and launch a rocket
- Space Shuttle Cockpit — land the Space Shuttle!
- International Space Station — full scale mock-up of habitation and Laboratory module
- Earth Balloon — satellite imagery on a 22-foot diameter globe
- Swamp to Space — a tribute to the families who relocated to make way for Stennis Space Center, a history of the center and information on the preservation of the local environment
- Evolution of Space Flight — a pictorial history from Goddard's rocket to NASA's next generation of spacecraft

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- Needlepoint Mission Patches — needlepoint replicas of NASA mission patches stitched and donated by the American Needlepoint Guild
- The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command — weather center and a representation of the ocean floor
- Caring for the Gulf Together — an interactive tour of how Stennis resident agencies support Gulf of Mexico activities
- NASA's Technology — An Investment in America's Future — a hands-on review of the benefits derived from the human exploration and development of space
- Touching Tomorrow ... Today — NASA's education exhibit highlighting the importance of sharing tomorrow's vision with today's youth and educators.

Outdoors, experience the feeling of a trip to Mars or a moon of Saturn with a ride on the motion simulator. There is also "1 Main St. Mars," a walk-through model of what a future home on Mars may look like, complete with Martian terrain and a two-passenger space buggy parked outside. Inside, visitors learn how the habitat produces its own fresh air and processes and recycles wastewater. A special scale, adjusted to Mars gravity, is available for visitors to see what they would weigh on the surface of Mars (about one-third of Earth weight).

Other outdoor exhibits include:

- a scale model of a Saturn V rocket that flew America's astronauts to the Moon
- an F-1 engine that powered the first-stage of the Saturn rocket
- a 68-foot Jupiter-C rocket, sister ship to the vehicle that carried America's first satellite to orbit
- a Space Shuttle Main Engine and a solid rocket booster
- a real Learjet Model 28 that represents Stennis Space Center's Geospace Applications and Development Directorate in which sensors are mounted on airplanes or satellites to gather detailed images of the Earth
- a full-scale Nomad buoy from the National Data Buoy Center is also on display to represent the automated observing systems that measure weather and ocean conditions from coastal and remote marine areas.

The RocKeTeria, a space-themed 1960s-style restaurant, offers a full menu from burgers and po-boys to soft drinks and soda fountain treats. The Space Odyssey Gift Shop provides the opportunity to take home the "Right Stuff" as souvenirs or gifts.

Admission to StenniSphere is free. The visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Tours depart on a regular schedule each day from the Launch Pad tour stop at the I-10 Welcome Center. Special presentations for groups can be arranged. Stennis Space Center is located on state Highway 607 with easy access from Interstates 10 and 59.

For more information or to make reservations for groups, call StenniSphere at (228) 688-2370 or 1-800-237-1821 (Option 1) in Mississippi and Louisiana, or access the StenniSphere home page on the World Wide Web at [www.ssc.nasa.gov/public/visitors](http://www.ssc.nasa.gov/public/visitors).